

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

TASK TEAM III - FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Briefing on Army Procurement of Foreign Publications  
Given by R. Bauer on 11 Feb 1965

The Army Library, which is the major library in the Pentagon procures publications primarily to meet its own needs but does procure a limited quantity of monographs and periodicals for others. Virtually all of Army Library's procurement of books and monographs is done through commercial channels principally U.S. and British booksellers. Titles wanted are contained in search lists sent to booksellers; each list is sent to only one bookseller.

As many items as possible are included in each requisition to reduce costs; and this is why Army Library tends to concentrate its procurement on dealers who have provided good service in the past.

Ninety percent of periodical subscriptions are likewise procured through commercial channels. These subscription requirements are consolidated whenever possible and are forwarded to Defense Supply Service who then requests bids. Items bid on might be a single list of 100 periodicals; the subscriptions are then placed with the various dealers according to costs.

The other ten percent of the periodicals are obtained through the attache system, which while always dependable is normally used as a last resort.

It is impossible to cite time lag in obtaining books as it varies in each case. The following case of receipt of the December 1964 issue of the Soviet magazine, *Voennoy Vestnik* [Military Herald] may be taken as an average: Air pouch in Acquisitions Branch, CIA on 21 December; Army Library 8 Jan and ACSI on 9 Feb, the latter two by surface mail.

Soviet Newspapers such as "Red Star" which are received by Air Mail in Army Library take an average of 4 days in comparison with a minimum of 6 to 10 days of ACSI receipts by air mail pouch from Army Attache from Moscow.

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ARMY Reviews

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One major problem of using the Attache system arises when the party that normally prepares shipments goes on leave; another man takes over the job and he is not aware of what goes by surface and what goes by air. The result is delay of priority items.

Basic costs vary by booksellers but include a mark up which covers their overhead and profit and special costs involved in search. A Marine Corps study was conducted on this subject in 1960 and they determined that the average cost from the time a request is received for the purchase order in Defense Supply to be \$30 - \$35.

Questions and answers brought out information bearing on the subject:

In the matter of the \$30 - \$35 cost of Defense Supply it turned out to be for the entire purchase order which might contain numerous items such as the list of one hundred periodicals referred to earlier; on the other hand a purchase order for one \$10 dictionary will actually cost \$45.

Time delay from request of an item through Army Library until receipt is at least two months. One statistic on a magazine from Moscow to Acquisition Branch/CIA was 45 days. Other statistics as follows: Army Library by Air - 4 days; Attache Channels by Air - 6-10 days; Army Library by Surface - 3 weeks or more. It took longer to get from Dulles Airport to our mailroom than it took to get from Moscow to Dulles Airport.

Most of these foreign publications on book and periodical lists from Moscow are available to commercial dealers in the U.S. except military items and the Attaches can get these.

Where a full time PFO is on duty in the State Program, good results are obtainable.

The 513th Intelligence Corps Group were able to get locally many things that were not available in Moscow; they had very good relationship with German book dealers.

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